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# New Buffalo Times

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Ribbon cut on brand-new New Buffalo Elementary School kitchen/cafeteria **PAGE 3**

Road paving to commence in Village of Grand Beach **PAGE 5**

New Buffalo school board views 'scorecard' for strategic plan **PAGE 6**

Lady Bison fast out of the gates in volleyball **PAGE 8**

Young Raiders showing promise in high school football **PAGE 12**

Homecamp Flower Farm features fresh flowers in full bloom **PAGE 18**

## MOTHER NATURE SPOKE...

## AREA CLEANING UP FROM TROPICAL-LIKE STORM

— PAGES 10-11 —

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Adults and children make their way through the new servery

Superintendent Adam Bowen, NBAS Board of Education members Greg Vosberg and Jennifer Summers, Food Services Director Patty Iazzetto, board member Vanessa Thun and elementary principal Melissa Lijewsk

An exterior view of the new kitchen and cafeteria

Parents and children admire the new space

# Ribbon cut on brand-new New Buffalo Elementary School kitchen/cafeteria

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

New Buffalo Area Schools Food Service Director Patty Iazzetto said the old New Buffalo Elementary School kitchen was built in 1974.

"I was in kindergarten," she said.

Now, having served as the food service director for the past 22 years, Iazzetto was cutting the ribbon on the school's kitchen/cafeteria expansion project ahead of the 2024-2025 school year.

"The food service team and I feel privileged to help our students nourish their bodies in an extraordinary new space," she said in front of the crowd of families that had gathered in the new space Tuesday, Aug. 27.

The overall project, which came in under $4 million, was around four years in the making.

Earlier in the year, the kitchen was shut down. Cold meals and a few hot meals needed to be prepared in crock pots and roasters in a little corner of the teacher workroom. The high school kitchen team prepared meals once a week and transported them to the elementary school so students could enjoy their favorite meal: chicken nuggets.

Meals were served in the elementary gym, thanks to the "flexibility" of physical education teacher Erica Johnson, Iazzetto said.

The food service team spent the last couple of weeks training on the brand-new kitchen equipment.

Highlights include a new servery; a combi oven, which allows for food to be prepared with steam, convection and roasting and washes itself; a fruit and vegetable prep area; a new dish machine and a hand washing sink for students that has soap and water and hand dryers.

A couple of doorways and the layout of the walls were also changed to make it a bigger space. A wall was opened up on one side of the space to make a dining room to accommodate about 50 children and some equipment. Next to the space is the Bison Afterschool Enrichment (BASE) office.

"So the whole dining room will be used after school," Iazzetto said.

Iazzetto thanked current and former food staff members, some of whom were there that evening, for working on the project over the last four years.

Also thanked were the high school kitchen team; New Buffalo Area School Superintendent Adam Bowen; Pano Arvanitis, the district's business manager, past superintendents Dr. Jeff Leslie and Dr. Michael Lindley; members of the New Buffalo Area School Board of Education, who approved the project; the district's operations department; the district's custodial staff; TowerPinkster; Tom Tackett from The Skillman Corporation; JRA Equipment; Stafford Smith and Ace Plumbing.

In 1974, the school only served lunch and gave cold milk to the kindergarteners.

Today, it serves breakfast, lunch and an afterschool snack, as well as a preschool snack and food for special events.

Thanks to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer approving the free Michigan School Meals program for all students in Michigan, the food service staff will provide free breakfasts, lunches and afterschool snacks this year; however, Iazzetto said families should fill out the summer EBT and education benefits form, which will be in students' back to school packs, as it controls funding for schools, for social workers, field trips Title I and technology services.

"Our greatest joy will come from the sites and sounds from our students enjoying the simple things, like eating breakfast and lunch, trying new foods and gathering during BASE," she said.

With regards to the district improvements, Bowen said that about 26 doors from 1976 were also replaced and electronic keycards were also installed. Safety glass was also installed on every window this summer.

"A lot of planning had taken place here...We had a lot of goals and wants and needs that we wanted with this project and we sat down with many conversations and here you are tonight," he said.

***To be Free requires you to happily accept exactly what is happening to you.*** — *Dino N. Fatouros*

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

**Democracy Requires Transparency**

**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
**CITY COUNCIL**
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
**GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
**MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# Berrien County Health Department provides information on bat safety and rabies prevention

As nighttime temperatures start to drop and bats look for warmer spots indoors, the Berrien County Health Department is providing important information to help keep community members safe and prevent the spread of rabies.

Rabies is an acute, fatal disease that is spread to humans by exposure to animals infected with rabies. The virus is present in the saliva of an infected animal. It enters the body through a break in the skin caused by the teeth of a rabid animal or when scratches, abrasions or mucous membranes are contaminated with the saliva of an infected animal. Each year, 60,000 people in the U.S. receive medical attention after they have had a potential exposure to rabies.

In Michigan, most positive rabies cases are found in bats, who are most active in the summer and begin looking for places to hibernate for the winter in early fall. Other wild animals most likely to carry or be infected with rabies in U.S. are skunks, foxes and raccoons. This month, BCHD has been made aware of a dozen bat bites or scratches to humans. Eight of the bats have been sent for testing.

"Rabies is a painful disease that is almost always fatal if preventive treatment isn't given quickly," said Sara Palmer, epidemiologist at BCHD. "We are educating community members on how to protect themselves and their loved ones against bat and rabies exposure, which can result in long and costly treatments."

Once symptoms develop, there are no effective treatments. Rabies symptoms may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, hallucinations, agitation, trouble swallowing and partial paralysis, which progresses into coma and then death.

If you are bitten by a bat, wake up to find a bat in your bedroom or find a bat in a room with a sleeping person, unattended child, person who is cognitively impaired or someone who is intoxicated, precautionary steps need to be taken to ensure a rabies infection does not occur. Bat bites are so small a person may not always know if they have been bitten. Anyone bitten by a bat should visit their health care provider for treatment of the wound and to determine if antibiotics are needed, among other steps.

To determine if a bat has rabies and post-exposure vaccination may be needed, the animal should be captured alive and brought to Berrien County Animal Control, which will coordinate with BCHD to send the bat off to be tested by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The bat should be brought in alive to ensure proper testing can be done. If the bat dies, place it in a container and keep it in the fridge until you receive next steps from Animal Control. If the bat is not caught and tested, the exposed person will need to get the rabies vaccine series.

The rabies vaccine series consists of four injections administered over 14 days and each dose can cost around $400, even with insurance. Safely capturing the bat and having it tested for the disease will help better determine the best course of treatment.

To safely capture a bat, you will need gloves, a small container or coffee can, a piece of cardboard or thin plastic cutting board and tape. To catch the animal:

- Put on thick gloves before attempting to capture the bat.
- Wait for the bat to land.
- Slowly approach and place a small container over the top of the bat.
- Slide the cardboard or cutting board under the container, trapping the bat inside.
- Once the bat is in the container, securely tape the container shut so it cannot escape.
- Place a few very small holes, less than a quarter inch in size, in the container to keep the bat alive.

Contact Berrien County Animal Control at 269-927-5648 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to receive instructions on next steps. After hours, call Berrien County Dispatch's non-emergency line at 269-983-3060.

The bat will be sent to MDHHS for testing, and the results will be available within five days. Once the results are received, the Health Department will work with you to determine if post-exposure treatment is needed.

You can prevent your risk of exposure to rabies by avoiding contact with wild animals. Never approach, touch or feed wild animals. If you store food outside, keep it in a sturdy container with a tight fitting lid.

You can also make your home less accessible to wild animals by installing a chimney cap and sealing openings larger than a dime around your home such as attics, crawl spaces or areas under your porch or deck.

For more information on rabies and safely capturing bats, visit www.bchdrabiesprevention.com. — STAFF REPORTS

***Rule No.1: Never lose money. Rule No.2: Never forget rule No.1.***
*— Warren Buffett*

The fence along U.S. Highway 12 for the Michigan portion of the future Marquette Greenway goes up in New Buffalo Township

# Road paving to commence in Village of Grand Beach

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The awarding of a $513,231 contract, which will be funded from cash reserves in Major Streets, Local Streets, Capital Projects Fund and General Fund, to Reith Riley to pave the streets in Grand Beach was approved at the Grand Beach Village council's Wednesday, Aug. 21, meeting. Work on the project, which is slated to begin mid-September, includes Grand Beach Road, Robin Lane, Holiday Hills Road, Royal Avenue, Skyhi Cul-De-Sac (the unpaved portion), Crescent Road, Main Drive, the golf cart lot and Honeybee Park.

Councilmember James Bracewell, who serves as streets and water commissioner, said that he was only requesting that there be a "strong consideration" of Grand Beach Road from the creek to the arch due to the increase in cyclists that will arrive from the future Marquette Greenway.

The village had paid Wightman and Associates to break down the worst streets and conduct a Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating (PASER) on them.

Council president Harry Walder said that, although the listed roads need to be done, he's concerned about "depleting" the village's reserves.

"It's going to put a hardship on us to take care of the rest of the roads for probably three or four years," he said.

Walder said the council needs to start a discussion with residents on ways to pay for other projects, where funding is currently unavailable through village taxes: the irrigation system for the golf course, the replenishment of beach sand and road repaving and repairs. Potential funding sources could be through an increase in the village's millage rate, a special assessment or donations.

A special millage, which would require the votes of the residents, could be done for just parks and recreation or just roads and may be for two to three years.

A millage could be generalized, while a special assessment would be for specific items.

"If we did an assessment for roads, we would have to spell out the roads that we're going to fix and the cost and the assessment would be to recover those dollars," Walder said.

It was noted that the last time taxes went up in the village was the 1990s.

Councilmember Blake O'Halloran said that the council needs to "evaluate not only the needs and wants and what exactly those are but also put dollar amounts to it."

"What would that equate to as far as a millage increase?" he said.

Village attorney Sara Senica gave an update on the lawsuit that was filed in 2021 by the villages of Grand Beach and Michiana regarding New Buffalo Township's 2.1 mil, 20-year Public Safety Special Assessment District (SAD) for police, fire and ambulance services.

Due to the SAD, residents are "paying duplicate for police services" because Grand Beach has a village police department.

The around 100 citizens between the villages that filed individual appeals at the Tax Tribunal "had jurisdiction to do that" because a specific provision in the Tax Tribunal Act states that, if a parcel is on a special assessment roll, they have the right to appeal to the township. If the township denies the appeal, they can go to the Tax Tribunal, with the requirement that there be an "ownership interest in a parcel that's being assessed."

She said that, since the village itself doesn't pay " a dime " to the township in special assessments because it doesn't own property that's subject to assessment, the village went to Circuit Court and asked them look at three different statutes that "give the village its own authority to pick its own police and fire services."

Senica said she believes Circuit Court missed one section of the statute, which led the village to appeal to the Court of Appeals.

Senica said that, since the Court of Appeals said that the case involves a special assessment, they determined it belongs in the Tax Tribunal.

"I expected the Court of Appeals to recognize that the village didn't have any standing to file that appeal because they're not assessed," she said.

The villages are working with the Michigan Municipal League, which has already filed an amicus brief.

Within the next two weeks, Senica may be holding a Closed Session with the council to determine the next steps.

Councilmembers approved the village becoming a member of the Great Lakes Coalition for a $200 annual fee, with Beaches Task Force Chair Ed Trainor to be the village representative. Walder said the group is working for the state to be involved in beach nourishment.

Councilmembers approved the bid for the Jensen Court survey from Wightman and Associates for $3,760 to be funded from the property's sale proceeds.

Councilmembers approved appointing Jim Krillenberger to the three-year term on the Planning Commission beginning Sept. 1, 2024, and ending Aug. 31, 2027.

Councilmembers heard about Codification Project interim revisions.

Councilmember Ed Brandes said the project involves cleaning up the ordinances that have accumulated since the village was incorporated and putting them on a searchable database

He said that he and a project team approved a contract with General Code, which gave them a draft/reorganization of the village's code and posed questions to them "as a work group to kind of give us a specific direction on it."

Walder asked council members to review a draft cover letter, which will be sent with the more than 100 signatures from residents, to state officials. Due to the Marquette Greenway, residents signed the petition in favor of MDOT authorizing the construction of traffic signals at the intersection of U.S. 12 over the Amtrak railroad tracks to Grand Beach and to provide a separate cycle/pedestrian crossing at the tracks

SCHOLASTICS

# New Buffalo school board views 'scorecard' for strategic plan

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Principals in the three buildings at New Buffalo Area Schools have collaborated on a "scorecard" as part of the ongoing strategic planning process.

New Buffalo Middle Principal Dan Caudle said at the Monday, Aug. 26, New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education meeting that the administrative team, along with a steering committee, began working last year on the new five-year strategic plan with Studer Education. The scorecard contains three pillars, each one with accompanying goals as well as strategic actions, progress monitoring measures and people who will ensure the goals are being followed.

Meetings will take place every 60 days to ensure that the goals are being followed and if changes need to be made.

The "academics" pillar contains the following goals: "By the school year of 2029, NBAS will build systems to ensure alignment of curriculum PK -12 based on state data" and "By school year 2029, NBAS will integrate an educational development program districtwide to enhance career readiness and personalized learning for all students PK through 12th grade."

Per the scorecard, strategic actions for the first goals include "analyzing student growth data, targeting interventions and enrichment opportunities for students and aligning standards to curriculum pacing guides and assessments to drive learning."

For the second goal, Caudle said that students in grades sixth through 12 will be utilizing Xello, a career readiness platform, which guides students to what their career interests are and progresses as they move up in each grade.

He added that they'll also be "tracking pre-k through fifth grade students on where their strengths are and hopefully moving those educational development plans into elementary school."

New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley said that second pillar, "Growth and Sustainability," has three goals: "By School year 2029, the district will create and implement a marketing plan to promote NBAS; by 2029, research, develop and implement systems to retain all employees" and "by 2029, develop and implement a fiscal program to ensure curricular and program solvency."

Gathering input from realtors and business agencies and also partnering with a marketing team will help the district brand itself and "promote us on a broader scale." Building a parent support team to give input on enrollment and promoting positive achievements in the district, such through the student radio station, can also be a part of the marketing plan.

Ensuring the "onboarding process" of the new staff will ensure the district retains its employees.

With regards to a fiscal program, Ripley said that departments for each building should ensure that curriculums are analyzed and programs are put on the budget based on what year the district is on in the curriculum cycle and that the district's facilities are being used appropriately.

New Buffalo Elementary School Principal Melissa Lijewski said that the third pillar, "Culture and COmmunity," contains the following goals, to be met by 2029: to "develop a multi-tiered system of support to engage all students academically and emotionally;" to "establish stronger relationships between the school district and the greater community to identify and achieve common goals" and to "develop and implement activities to enhance school climate and culture."

Strategic actions for the first goal include "building continuous assessment and data driven instruction and providing students with targeted interventions," such as through monthly at-risk meetings to support students in of need guidance and establishing systems of support for students and personnel pertaining to social and emotional learning, with Lijewski adding that they have "lots of support with guidance counselors, a social worker and a restorative paraprofessional at the elementary.

The district can work with the marketing team to get input from the community and other stakeholders to figure out "how can we create those stronger relationships in order to support the school system."

The strategic action for the third goal is to "collaborate with employees to develop activities to enhance workplace culture and climate and drive student learning."

Also at the meeting, board members approved a quote from Moss Technology for wireless internet in the athletic multiplex area and the installation of additional cameras there and a wireless network and electronic keycards for the athletic building.

New Buffalo Area School Superintendent Adam Bowen added that an intercom system also needs to be installed to the open gym doors to let people enter and exit, so there'll be a buzzer system there.

Board members approved a high school fundraiser.

Ripley said that the school is looking to use Power Purpose, which is already utilized by the elementary and middle schools, to help raise money for incentives students receive for positive behavior.

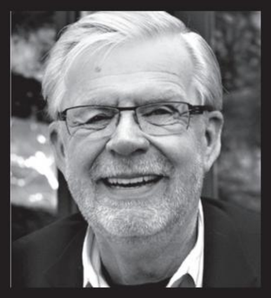
Board members approved a grant writer consultant contract.

Bowen said that, throughout the process of developing the Planned Unit Development to be located across from the elementary school, the district has been seeking grants at the state and federal level. A professional grant writer, who would be paid at the hourly rate of $125, would have access and information about specific grants.

# SPORTS

## From the Bleachers

**COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO**



The end...well, very close to it anyway.

To many people who live in Harbor Country year round, it means that those FIPS won't be clogging the streets as much until next spring.

To Chicago baseball fans, it means that we can finally put this season behind us and begin to figure out what our teams need in order to be playoff teams next year.

To NFL fans, it means the preseason is finally behind us. All the hype is over, and we can begin to actually see how good the Bears are going to be.

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginnings end."

That quote says, very poetically, that the end of one thing, always leads to the beginning of another.

When the football season ended last year, many Bears' fans wanted the team to fire the coach and the general manager, and keep going forward with quarterback Justin Fields. The Bears decided to do none of those things and even though the regular season is still a couple of weeks away, those same fans have never been as excited as they are for a season to begin.

Most of the people I know are Bears' fans.

All of the people I know are aware that I'm a fan, so they question me about what I think is going to happen this year. In past years, because I'm an optimist, I always really believed that they would be good.

When they flopped in the season opener against the Packers last year, I felt like a pin had pricked my balloon and deflated the entire season.

This year, I've been trying to downplay my excitement, but my gosh it's difficult.

The front office is doing everything it possibly can to make this a playoff team. The head coach is now assisted by other coaches, that are far better than the coaches from last year. The defense is being aggressive and the offense has a world class trio of receivers.

The only thing that might be standing in the way of a great season is our rookie quarterback, Caleb Williams. Caleb is so talented that I feel safe in saying he will be the best quarterback in the history of the team. He has also shown me that he's no ordinary rookie, and he's handled everything that has come his way.

I believe they will be as good as any team this year, and I'm not sure when their excellence will come to an end.

So, the end of Justin Fields in Chicago led to the beginning of Caleb Williams, which is leading to the end of mediocrity for the team and the beginning of excellence. The preseason has been fun and now it's time for the real games to begin. Go Bears.

Harry Chapin sang, "All my life's a circle, But I can't tell you why, The seasons spinning round again, The years keep rolling by."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

***The trouble with most people is that they think with their hopes or fears or wishes rather than with their minds.*** — *Will Durant*

# Area men charged in overheating deaths of dogs

**BY STAN MADDUX**

Charges were recently filed against two Michigan City men for the overheating deaths of nine dogs last summer.

According to Indiana State Police, the dogs were being driven from O'Hare Airport in Chicago to a training facility when the cargo van they were in broke down in Lake Station, Indiana.

Police said the dogs were to be trained as security and police dogs.

Michael McHenry and Jessee Urbaszewski are each charged with nine counts of animal cruelty.

Each charge as a result of the over one year-long investigation could bring them as much as 12 months in jail.

Authorities said the air conditioning unit in the cargo van failed as they waited two hours in a traffic jam on Interstate 94 during 90 degree weather.

No other dogs survived the sweltering conditions in the van.

Police said warrants were issued for their arrests but the men failed to turn themselves in.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# Lady Bison fast out of the gates in volleyball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School girls' volleyball team is off to a fast start despite the loss of two major contributors from last year's squad.

Senior Jane Funk, who had well over 200 kills last year, is out for the season with a knee injury suffered while playing club volleyball in June.

Head Coach Bruce Molineaux said the loss of Funk, a starter since her freshman year and repeat member of the Berrien Cass St. Joseph all conference squad, will especially hurt when playing against taller, more physical players from larger schools.

"Those are the kind of competitions that we'll miss Jane because she was able to put that ball down," he said.

The 5-foot-10-inches Funk was a major presence at the net from points scored when spiking the ball and shots blocked on defense.

Molineaux said his team also lost Colleen Chlystun, who transferred to Burris Laboratory School in Muncie, Indiana, with an eye on playing volleyball at nearby Ball University after she graduates in 2026.

"We lost two really good players from last year," he said.

Nevertheless, the Lady Bison are off to a 4-1 start after a three-game sweep of Lawrence at home Monday, Aug. 26.

"So far, we're doing good," he said.

Players helping to fill the void include seniors Benita Puskunigis, the current team leader in kills, and Cassidy Saunders, who's next on the team in kills.

Senior Josie Humphrey has also been a solid contributor especially from her imposing height at the net and powerful strikes of the ball.

In the first game against Lawrence, the Lady Bison scored consecutive points on the accurate, sledge hammer like serves from Humphrey, who had three aces in the match.

Nicky Durham was also impressive with her serves, leading the team in aces with six.

Mckennah Tierney had eight kills followed by seven from Puskunigis, who also recorded three aces.

Tierney and Humphrey led the defense with eight and seven digs respectively.

The three other victories for the Lady Bison have come against Eau Claire, Watervliet and Marcellus while their only loss was to River Valley, which gave New Buffalo problems on the court last year.

## SINGERS SEEKING MEMBERS

The Harbor Country Singers (HCS) community choir is seeking new members to join the choir.

There will be a meet and greet for new and current members at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, in Harbert.

Rehearsals for the Holiday Concert will be every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. from Oct. 1 through Dec. 3 at Episcopal Church of the Mediator. The concert will be performed twice: at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at The Acorn, located at 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks.

Singers Choir Director Maggie Martin has been the piano accompanist for HCS since it started in 2016. She has assisted with directing throughout that time, and became the director last year. She is a classically trained pianist and has 25 years experience in choral accompaniment. Martin is from Three Oaks and is a small business owner in Harbert. She is passionate about including all skill levels in choir and is excited to provide a space, where all are welcome to sing and celebrate the holiday season.

For more information, text Martin at 734-730-1126 or email her at maggiemartinpiano@gmail.com, or visit School of American Music on Facebook or the website www.schoolofamericanmusic.com.

Harbor Country Singers community choir is a program of the nonprofit School of American Music and is supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund. — STAFF REPORTS

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# Area cleaning up from tropical-like storm

BY STAN MADDUX

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY JANINE ADAMSKI AND STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo and the surrounding area were reeling from Tuesday night's heavy rains and high winds that some residents compared to a tropical storm and even a low-level hurricane.

There were several thousands of Indiana Michigan Power Company customers without power for an extended period in New Buffalo and other nearby communities like Union Pier, Grand Beach, Lakeside and Three Oaks.

"One of the worse storms in many, many years came through here for sure," said New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey.

Humphrey said the top half of two old pine trees snapped, landing in his yard without causing damage.

Humphrey said he also spotted "tons" of fallen trees, including many large ones, along Red Arrow Highway while driving to Chikaming Township the next morning.

New Buffalo resident Bob Stratton said there have been worse storms but this one was "pretty scary."

Stratton said he saw about a dozen smaller trees laying on the ground along with numerous branches and other scattered debris just during his two-mile drive to work at Service 1 Marine just outside the Michigan state line along Indiana 39 in La Porte County.

The landscape from all of the storm debris looked as if "a bomb went off," he said.

A family in New Buffalo has been forced out of their home significantly damaged by a huge pine tree that fell during Tuesday night's powerful storm.

Kelley Perkins at 12366 Lubke Road said her residence is not livable right now because of the large branches that went through the front of the large house near New Buffalo Elementary School.

Perkins said a pizza she ordered had just been delivered moments before the heavy rain and extremely high wind storm hit.

It wasn't long before she heard a tree in her front yard crash against the front of her house.

Tree branches also came through into the kitchen, living room and a few other areas of the residence.

"I saw this tree branch and water was pouring in and then the wind was picking up," she said.

Fortunately, she and her mother, Anna, along with her two daughters, Sophia, 10, and Kora, 7, were not injured.

Her other daughter, Brianna, 24, was working at the Harbor Grand Hotel near the lakefront at the time.

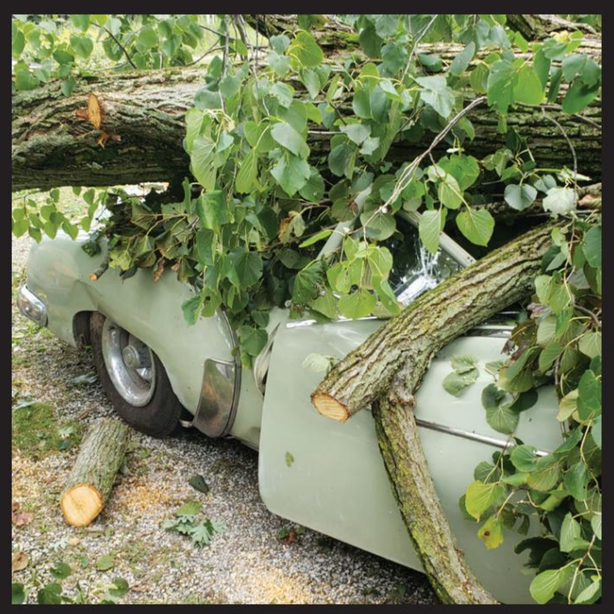
For now, the family is staying at the hotel at no charge at the insistence of owner Robert Kemper.

They could be there for a while due to the extent of the damage and not having insurance to cover the expected costly repairs.

Brianna said relatives in places like Texas and Illinois are reaching out to them with offers to help.

"We're just trying to get our ducks in a row," she said.

Perkins said she tried getting insurance on the house she purchased several years ago but no company would offer her a policy unless the aging shingles on the roof were replaced.



However, she couldn't afford the $40,000 or more to have a new roof put on it with her finances strained after purchasing the home.

"Obviously, life happens so, now, we have a problem," she said.

Nevertheless, Perkins said she's counting her blessings.

"I could have lost my life or my children's life. A house can be replaced but not your family," she said.

Other storm related damage included a large tree falling on a 1950 Chevy outside a home in New Buffalo at Bell Avenue rand Clay Street.

The extensive damage to the car included a caved in roof.

The storm lasting for about 30 minutes appeared to live up to the National Weather Service's forecasts of up to 70 mile per hour winds.

"I would say at least that, if not, more," said Bob Johnson, who lives near Michigan City High School.

Johnson said the wind speeds caused the heavy rain to come down in "sideways" and lightning filled the skies.

"The sky was lit up. It was a pretty colorful show," he said.

Northern Indiana Public Service Company reported about two-thirds of the over 3,000 customers still without power Wednesday in its entire customer service territory were in the Michigan City and La Porte areas.

La Porte Street Department Superintendent Mike Frase expected the clean-up to last for two days.

He said there were about a half dozen trees blocking streets along with limbs and other brush throughout the city.

A stretch of Waverly Road near Pine Lake was closed for an extended period from waiting on NIPSCO to arrive and turn off any power flowing through lines brought down by a large fallen tree limb.

"This storm wasn't as bad as others but it was bad enough," he said.

The property damage in La Porte included a gaping hole in the roof of a house struck by a huge maple tree toppled during the storm on Darlington Street on the city's east side.

"You can stand in the kitchen and look and see daylight," said Randy Findlay, 61, who owns the single-story home.

Sara Northern, 41, suffered damage to her front porch and mini-van from a large fallen tree at her two-story residence on Rockwood St.

She just returned home from work and went upstairs to visit with her children when the tree came down.

The next day, Northern was trying to contact her insurance company to arrange for coverage to the repairs to her vehicle.

"The windows are broken out. The doors are bowed. I can't get in it," she said.

Michigan City Street Director Shong Smith reported at least 25 calls were placed to his office about fallen trees and limbs in the street.

Smith said some headstones were also damaged by fallen trees at Greenwood Cemetery.

"Crews have been put on mandatory overtime until we have the city cleaned up," he said.

# Young Raiders showing promise in high school football

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders are beginning the high school football season without eight seniors from last year's squad but showed good potential during a preseason scrimmage game at home against the Twin City Sharks.

Head Coach Matt Johnson said one of the keys to a third consecutive winning season is how quickly the new varsity players on the team develop and come together as a unit.

Seniors Ethan Lijewski at quarterback and David Nicely on the offensive line are the only two returning starters on offense.

Nicely on the defensive line and senior N'Mason Smothers in the secondary are the only two returning players on defense.

The elusive Smothers, who has explosive speed, is also expected to be the primary ball carrier at the running back position.

"Just a lot of new guys in new positions and that takes a little bit of time to gel. How quickly those guys get up to speed and how quickly they gel offensively and defensively I think will dictate where our season goes," Johnson said.

The team consisting of players from New Buffalo and River Valley high schools might have to rely mostly on the arm of Lijewski and the speed of Smothers in the back field to put points on the scoreboard.

The team showed promise by scoring four touchdowns and allowing just a single touchdown during the first one hour of the scrimmage at home Thursday, Aug. 22.

Smothers on just the second play on offense ran the ball more than 30 yards into the end zone.

A short time later, Lijewski connected with Adam Slavens on a 35 yard touchdown pass.

Lijewski after being forced out of the pocket later ran the ball in the end zone from about the 10-yard line.

Among the highlights on defense was middle linebacker Trevor James stopped a running play up the middle with hit so hard that it almost sounded like the engine of a car backfiring.

Slavens also intercepted a five yard pass in the end zone.

Twin City consists of players from Our Lady of the Lake, Michigan Lutheran, Countryside Academy and Watervliet Grace Christian.

Johnson said the scrimmage game was more about evaluating his players to determine their current skill level prior to the season opener.

"We needed to see what they could do. Some of the guys were what we thought they were and other guys they need a little more work than we hoped they needed, but that's the game of football," he said.

Another new player to the varsity Johnson expects good things from is junior Lucas Forker, who played at the junior varsity level last year.

The 6-foot-4-inches Forker, expected to rotate between tight end and wide receiver, will provide a big target downfield for Lijewski to hit with his passes.

He also likes what he sees from Slavens, a senior who had not played much organized football in recent years.

The Raiders finished 5-4 last season and 6-3 the previous season.

Johnson said he hopes for similar results, if not, better this season but only time will tell.

"We just want our kids to learn and compete. If our kids can learn to compete then our wins and losses will take care of themselves," he said.

## SCULPTOR TO BE FEATURED AT CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR

Bill Boyce, a sculptor from Benton Harbor, will be showing several works during the month of September at The Episcopal Church of the Mediator at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

Contact the church office to make a special arrangement to visit at office@mediatorharbert.com, or go during the regular hours of 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon Sundays. — STAFF REPORTS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# OBITUARIES

## James Walter Wisner
1938-2024

James Walter Wisner, 85, of Three Oaks, died Sunday, August 25, 2024.

His life began December 15, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois, the third of five children born to Leo and Agnes Wisner. He married Merlyn Wallsten February 14, 1981, in Sawyer Highlands Church.

Jim cherished his family and dogs. He enjoyed working with his hands and loved making keepsakes for his children. He was an entrepreneur, owning his own business alongside his wife. They dealt in wood pattern making and home and garden retail. Jim was a dreamer and visionary who was able to see every one of his ideas come to fruition. He worked selflessly and quietly in the community behind the scenes, preserving the history of Three Oaks. He passionately worked to restore the Featherbone buildings.

James will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of forty-three years, Merlyn Wisner of Three Oaks; three daughters, Joanie (Michael) Davidson of Three Oaks, Sandie (Ron) Schmidt of Three Oaks, Nancy (Timothy) Luukkonen of Chugiak, Alaska; one daughter-in-law, Linda Flick of Three Oaks; two sons, Kurt (Tami) Wisner of Sawyer, Kenneth (Ron Zarantenello) Wisner of Three Oaks; fourteen grandchildren; thirty-three great grandchildren; two sisters, Betsy Horon of Iowa, Lynne Pownell of North Carolina; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Bobbie Flick; one sister, Carol Bautista; one brother, Robert Wisner; and loving dog Gracie.

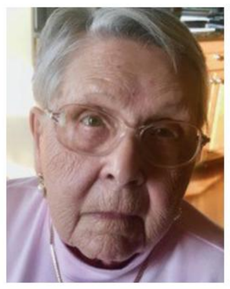
Family and friends will gather Friday, August 30, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. until time of service at 3:30 p.m. in Woodland Shores Baptist Church, 3555 West Shawnee Road, Bridgman.

James will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of James be made to Real Life Community Church, 12 Michigan Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128 or to Woodland Shores Baptist Church, 3555 West Shawnee Road, Bridgman, Michigan 49106.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

## Lorraine Anna Ziegert
1925-2024



Lorraine Anna Ziegert, 99, of Sun Valley, Idaho, formerly of Three Oaks, passed peacefully in her sleep, Sunday, August 18, 2024 in the presence of her family.

Lorraine was born on June 26, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois. She was the youngest of two children born to Joseph and Josephine Benhart. Lorraine married Norman Ziegert of Bridgman on December 28, 1946 in St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church. Together Lorraine and Norman raised two wonderful daughters; Norma and Nancy. Lorraine was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. After seventy-two years of marriage, he preceded her in death in 2018.

Lorraine was a longtime resident of Three Oaks. Her grandparents had a farm west of town and her parents had a home on Ash Street. Lorraine was a 1943 graduate of Three Oaks High School. After graduation she worked at Warren Featherbone and volunteered at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Three Oaks, later moving to Southeast Michigan in 1964. In 2018, Lorraine moved to Seattle, Washington to live with her youngest daughter Nancy and husband after Norman passed away and recently relocated to Sun Valley, Idaho.

Lorraine was very artistic. She enjoyed sewing, painting, ceramics, playing the organ, swimming, walking on the beach, riding her bicycle and golfing. Lorraine also enjoyed traveling. She spent many winters in Florida, traveled to Hawaii, Europe, Japan, China, Southeast Asia, Mexico, and visited most of the United States. Lorraine was an excellent traveling companion. Lorraine will always be remembered for her love for her family and friends, loving smile, selfless behavior, and desire to keep active.

Lorraine will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by two daughters, Norma (Michael) Phillips of Dearborn Heights, Nancy (David) Gladish of Sun Valley, Idaho; two granddaughters, Melissa Phillips, Miranda Phillips, both of Dearborn Heights; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Lorraine was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband, and her beloved brother Joseph Benhart who was killed in action in World War II.

Family and friends will gather Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 11:00 a.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

Lorraine will be laid to rest next to her husband in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

# DEATH NOTICES

**THREE OAKS –** James Bernard Schwark, 84, of Three Oaks, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, August 24, 2024. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

# HOROSCOPE

## AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Face those inner demons and take charge of your life because there is a stabilizing force coming your way. This is an excellent time to implement changes to your daily routines. You will have much more strength and will power. So, use it to its fullest by taking better care of yourself.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

You will be driven to get creative or put your own spin on things. Make your life your own. You are the captain of the ship. So, take charge and don't let negative people throw you off course. It's important you surround yourself with people who are bringing love and light into your life.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21

It's time to settle in and get comfortable. Embrace your feminine power by being more receptive, magnetic and dedicated to right action. It's all about magnetism and authenticity. When you are in the flow, you literally draw in positive people and good energy. Manifestation time!

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

There will be some very positive improvements made in your neighborhood that will build bridges and foster lasting friendships. Express anger or disappointments with words rather than acting out. Also, don't let words hurt you or make you feel stuck. Constructive communications here.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

This is the time for planting new financial seeds. Embrace the fresh start that is coming your way by implementing changes to your spending habits. Things will go much smoother now with creditors. So, if you have outstanding debt, now is when you will get things settled.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Be true to yourself in all situations this week. Trust in your abilities and make a fresh start where ever one is needed. Tend to the things you set in motion back in the spring. Your seeds are sprouting but they need your direction. There are a lot of opportunities to grow and expand now.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This is a great week for letting go of the past and opening yourself up to new possibilities. Embrace new dreams and new connections. This is also a very intuitive time so, pay close attention to your dreams. When faced with communication breakdowns, trust your gut.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Get back on track with your social life. It's important you get out and meet new people or get back into the groove with your posse. Even if that's just you walking the dogs, get out into the world. New connections that are made now will be very supportive and heartfelt.

**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You will be very influential this week and will reach people in power or people who can make a difference. Your voice will be heard and there will be many positive changes made now. You will feel situations stabilize over the next couple of weeks. Really go for it, Archer.

.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There may be some things you don't want to move on from but you will sense it's time to start fresh and will. You will feel more secure with your abilities and more solid in who you are; giving you the ability to let go of the things that aren't serving you.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

You are entering a very transformative time, where you will see a lot of positive changes made to your homelife and emotional wellbeing. The vibes coming at you will help strengthen your reactivity to negative stimuli and power up your resonance so, you can manifest you wishes.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Any relationships started during this week, will have the propensity to bring a lot of positive changes to your life. That doesn't mean it will always be smooth sailing but it will be enlightening. Embrace in depth discussions and listen to those long histories. There's good information there.

***No man's knowledge here can go beyond his experience.***
***— John Locke***

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## Sudoku

*Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | | | 7 | | | |
| | 6 | 8 | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | 4 | 6 |
| | 4 | | | | | | 5 | |
| 1 | | | | | | 8 | | |
| | 5 | | | | 8 | | | |
| | | 4 | 6 | | 2 | | | 1 |
| | 1 | | | 9 | | | | 5 |
| 6 | | | | 4 | | 9 | | |

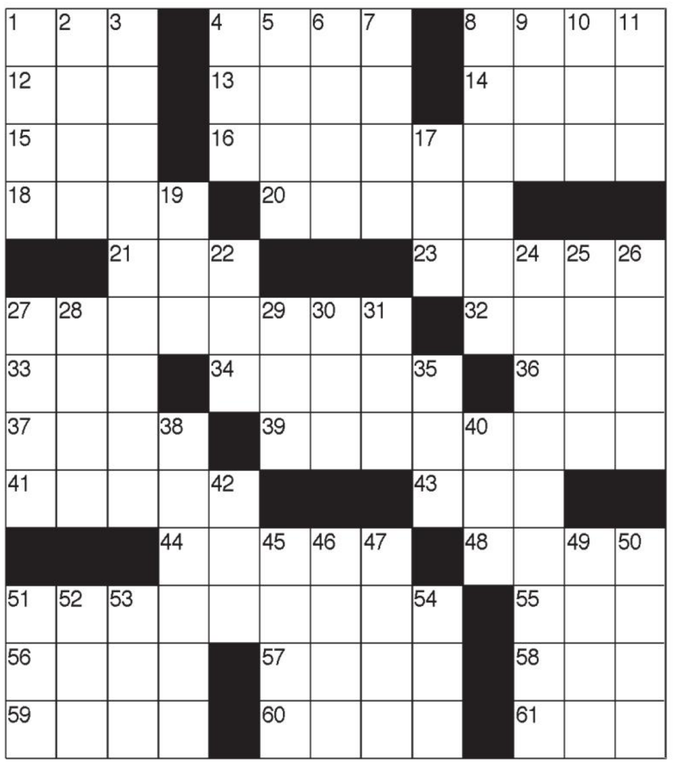
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Distress signal
4 Student's pony
8 Build a ceiling
12 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
13 Recent (suf.)
14 Berne's river
15 Own (Scot.)
16 Kob
18 Flavor
20 Roast (Fr.)
21 Flap
23 Auspices
27 Chambered mollusk
32 Forbidden
33 Mountain on Crete
34 Dominion
36 Fr. month
37 Sleep (pref.)
39 Wind screen
41 Indo-Eur.
43 Pinch
44 "The Bartered Bride" character
48 Mountain summit (Ital.)
51 Event
55 A (Ger.)
56 Andes grass
57 River into the North Sea
58 Television channel
59 Six (Sp.)
60 Ancient Per. province
61 Vanity

**DOWN**

1 Hall (Ger.)
2 Fetish
3 Refuge
4 Counterclockwise (abbr.)
5 Hind
6 Within
7 Vegetable
8 Pronghorn
9 Water (Fr.)
10 Internat'l Red Cross (abbr.)
11 Grouse's courtship area
17 Inlet
19 Corrode
22 Half a quarter
24 Man (2 words)
25 Dayak people
26 Outfit
27 Caravel of Columbus
28 City in Judah
29 Fat (pref.)
30 Caribbean lizard
31 Single lens reflex (abbr.)
35 Belonging to (suf.)
38 Field (Lat.)
40 Custer's horse
42 Never (Ger.)
45 Scot. knife
46 Bank
47 Coptic clergyman
49 Chin. dynasty
50 Year (Lat.)
51 Possessive pronoun
52 Card
53 Greek letter
54 Precious stone



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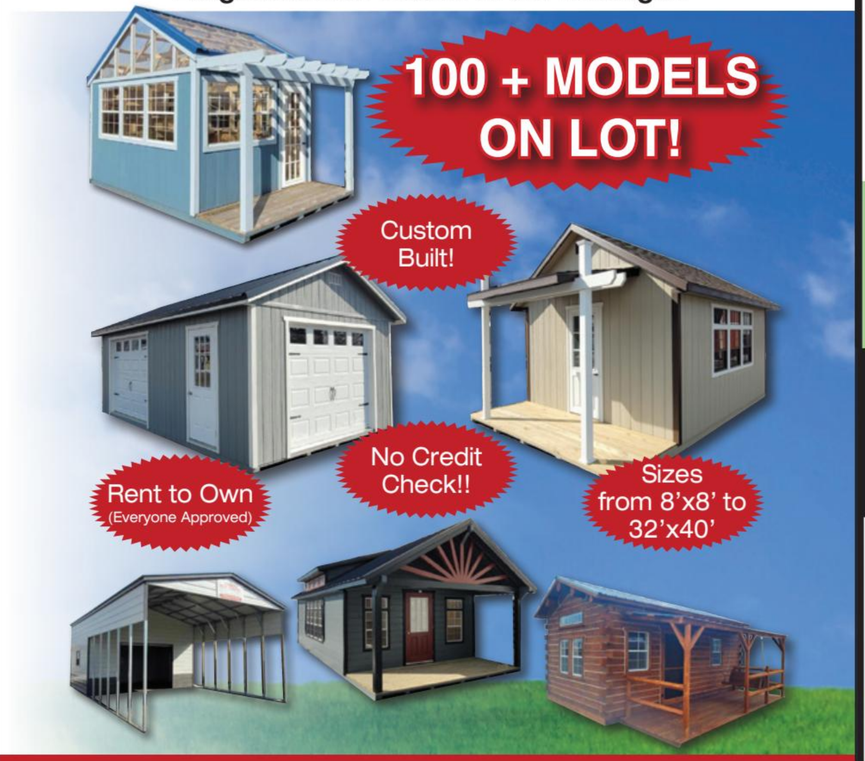

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# Nurse diagnosed with 'alcohol intoxication' not stroke

BY STAN MADDUX

La Porte County Police say a registered nurse showing up for work at a hospital struck a parked vehicle and was being evaluated for a possible stroke until a test revealed a near lethal amount of alcohol in her bloodstream.

Candice Vanwaardenburg, 52, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with operating while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident.

Police said the San Pierre woman was reported as a reckless driver Monday, Aug. 26, before driving off the road and pulling into the parking lot of Franciscan Health just outside Michigan City.

Surveillance video footage shows her colliding with a Subaru Outback outside the hospital and erratically pulling her pick-up truck with a freshly damaged front bumper into a wide open parking spot, according to police.

Police said Vanwaardenburg stepped out of the vehicle wearing traditional blue scrubs and identification as a registered nurse.

She was on her way to begin her 12 hour shift but was so unsteady on her feet she was wheeled into the hospital.

She then was admitted as a patient.

According to police, an officer with approval from her doctor went inside her room to speak to her about the collision in the parking lot.

The doctor informed the officer she may have had a stroke but they were still in the process of making a diagnosis, police said.

The officer began his investigation by asking about her symptoms.

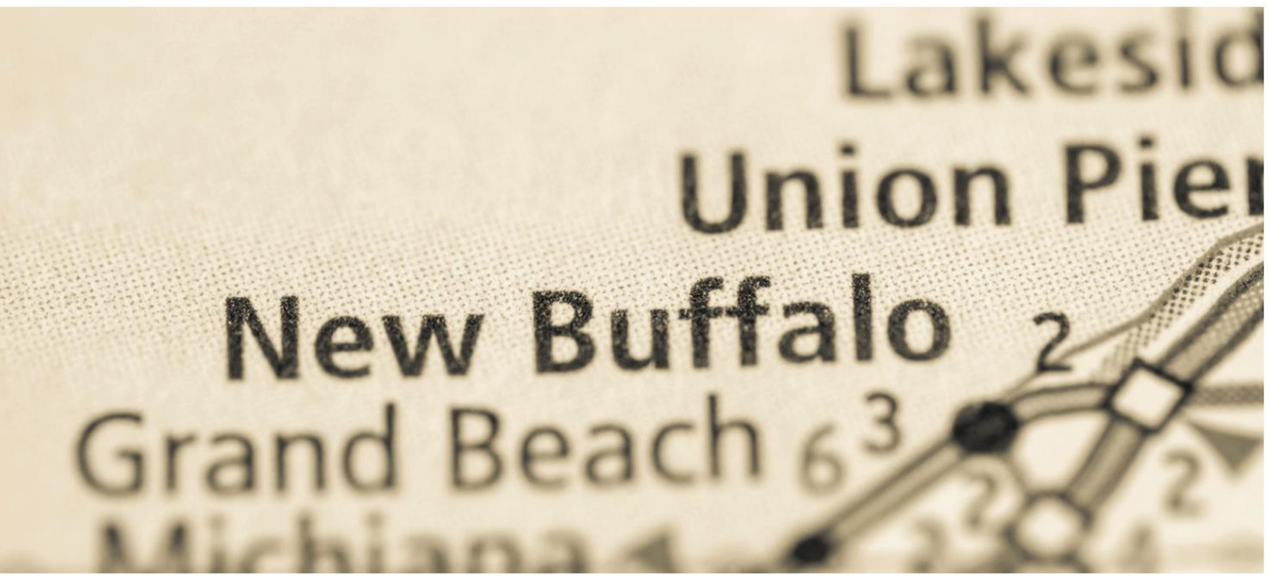
In a slurred speech, the woman said her husband expressed concern that she didn't seem right in the mind when she left home and she had to begin squinting her eyes while passing through Westville during her 45 minute commute, according to police.

The officer's suspicions were raised, though, when he moved closer and smelled an odor of alcohol on her breath.

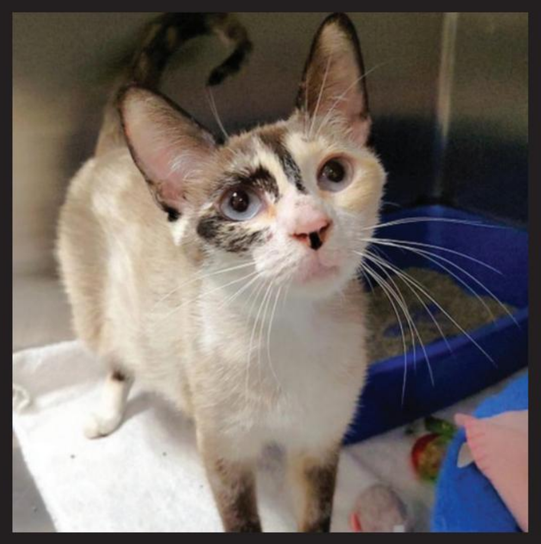
In response, Vanwaardenburg claimed it had been about 18 hours since her last drink, police said.

Soon, a blood sample taken from her revealed a 0.416 blood alcohol level or slightly five times more than the .08 percent legal limit for operating a vehicle.

She was handcuffed and taken to the La Porte County Jail before being released the next day after posting $900 cash bond to await the outcome of her two misdemeanor counts.




# PET OF THE WEEK



## GUINEVERE

**Guinevere is a little lady with unique coloring and blue eyes. She may take a couple of minutes to warm up to new people, but she wants to give and receive affection. She is spayed, and her vaccinations are up-to-date. Guinevere loves to play with her spring toys, and she does not mind being picked up if you scoop her and hold her close. She is good with children and dog-friendly, but not good with other cats. Guinevere is about one year old, and is a sweetheart.**

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# Homecamp Flower Farm features fresh flowers in full bloom

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

All Bek Nelson wanted was bring the blooming fields of flowers that she has encountered on her past world travels to southwest Michigan.

At Homecamp Flower Farm, guests will find just that: two acres of flowers, which range from gladiolas to sunflowers to dahlias, that are ready to be picked.

"I wanted to be surrounded by a ridiculous amount of flowers," said Nelson at a ribbon-cutting for the business Thursday, Aug. 22.

More than that, she wanted those who live in the area to have the feeling of being surrounded by that beauty.

"When I was a kid, I used to go to France and see lavender fields and sunflower fields... I felt compelled not to travel to see things but to do things where I am," Nelson said.

Harbor Country Chamber Executive Director Kimberlee Wendt said that she enjoyed seeing the progression of the land, which sat as an empty farm field for a while.

"You have lots of different activities here but this is really special and it's going to really complement everything Three Oaks is about," she said.

Having grown vegetables in the past, Nelson said that growing so many flowers at once was a new experience for her.

She's been involved in the technology field for most of her life, and she and her husband have a construction service, At Your Service.

"It usually takes probably three weeks to plant everything - and I had to do it multiple times because some of the seeds didn't take," she said.

The first plot started growing last year. Once she realized everything had grown, Nelson put a blackboard out front that invited guests to pick their bouquets. This year, the second and third plots successfully grew as well.

The flower farm features a variety of flowers that have been selected to bloom at different times during the summer and fall.

Guests are invited to grab a bucket of water and pick their own flowers. Nelson said that they also can pick your bouquets for you.

Recently, Homecamp was the site of a kids camp.

"The kids absolutely just loved learning how to pollinate and cross pollinate, propagate - we're putting a wildflower meadow down there next year and the kids were helping us with the weeds," Nelson said.

The pastoral farmhouse, the "farmstay," that sits one a portion of the property was used during the camp.

Nelson said the formerly dilapidated, two-story farmhouse was remodeled by At Your Service and is available to rent for intimate groups.

Nelson said that the farmhouse and flower camp was the site of a small wedding, with the couple getting married in the flower field. Recently, it was the site of a proposal.

"It's just a lot of little, magical things," Nelson said.

Homecamp Flower Farm is located at 16658 Three Oaks Road in Three Oaks and can be contacted at www.homecampflowers.com, Facebook, Instagram or by calling 269-806-1259.

The farm is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday through October, or when the first frost hits.

Flowers in full bloom are waiting to be picked at Homecamp

The farmstay located on one side of the property

The ribbon is cut among the flower plots at Homecamp Flower Farm

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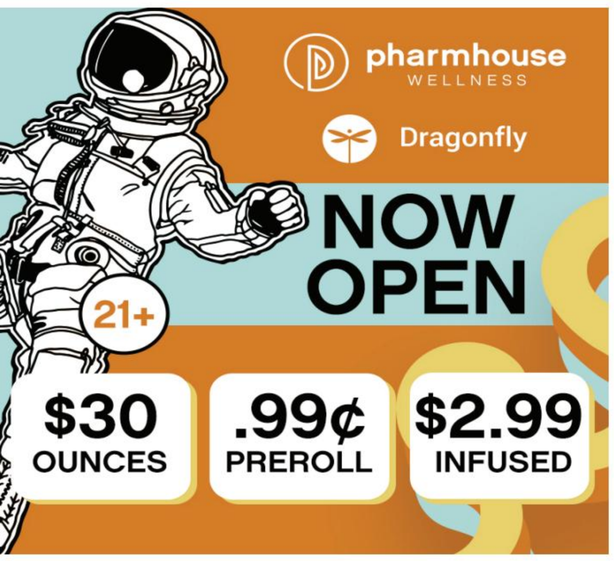


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